

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are pending. In the present amendment, Claims 1-3 are currently amended and new Claims 4-7 are added. Support for the present amendment can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 10, lines 17-20, at page 11, line 21 to page 12, line 1, in Figures 2 and 5, and in original Claims 1-3. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 was objected to; Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Cabrera (U.S. Patent No. 5,868,413) in view of Ziperstein (U.S. Patent No. 1,579,589); and Claims 2 and 3 were objected to, but indicated as including allowable subject matter.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 2 and 3. However, as Applicants believe that Claim 1, upon which Claims 2 and 3 depend, includes allowable subject matter, Claims 2 and 3 are maintained in dependent form at the present time.

The specification is hereby amended to correct some minor informalities. Regarding the correction of patent reference one, it is noted that the description in the original specification is of Japanese application JP-A-9-42195 directed to an assist tool for training of a monocycle and not of JP-10-A-42195 directed to a video changeover device. Accordingly, the specification is hereby amended to recite the publication number (JP-10-A-236369) of the Japanese application described therein (JP-A-9-42195). Support for the other amendments to the specification can be found, for example, at page 10, lines 17-20, at page 11, line 21 to page 12, line 1, in Figures 2 and 5, and in original Claims 1-3. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In response to the objection to Claim 1, Claim 1 is amended as suggested in the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the objection to Claim 1 be withdrawn.

Turning now to the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection and traverse this rejection, as discussed below.

Amended Claim 1 recites:

A monocycle, comprising:

a wheel comprising a rim of a predetermined diameter having a tire, an axle arranged at a center portion of the rim, and a connecting piece for connecting the rim and the axle;

a pedal capable of driving to rotate the axle of the wheel;

a frame portion pivotably fixed with the axle on one end side thereof;

a saddle portion connected to other end side of the frame portion;

a handle portion slidably and fixably connected to the other end side of the frame portion such that handle shafts of the handle portion are configured to be slid to a position below the axle to form a stand with a bottom of the wheel; and

means for braking to manually brake the wheel,

wherein the handle portion and a saddle of the saddle portion are constituted by a structure being arranged at a predetermined angle therebetween, the connecting piece is arranged with at least three pieces of suspensions at intervals of 120 degrees between the rim and the axle.

Accordingly, the monocycle recited in Claim 1 includes a handle portion slidably and fixably connected to an end of the frame portion. Further, the handle portion includes handle shafts that are configured to be slid to a position below the axle to form a stand with a bottom of the wheel. As can be seen in the exemplary embodiment shown in Figure 5, the handle

shafts are slid below the axle and form a three point support.¹ It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 1.

Cabrera describes a unicycle 10 including a fork stem 11 provided with a pair of tines 14 and 15.² Cabrera further describes that the pair of tines 14 and 15 are removably attached to the axle of a wheel 17.³

However, it is respectfully submitted that Cabrera does not disclose or suggest “a handle portion slidably and fixably connected to the other end side of the frame portion such that handle shafts of the handle portion are configured to be slid to a position below the axle to form a stand with a bottom of the wheel,” as recited in amended Claim 1.

Instead, as discussed above, Cabrera describes that the tines 14 and 15 are attached to an axle of the wheel 17. Thus, Cabrera does not disclose or suggest that the tines 14 and 15 can be slid to a position below the axle of the wheel 17. Accordingly, the tines 14 and 15 of the unicycle 10 described in Cabrera would not form a stand with the bottom of the wheel 17. Thus, the tines 14 and 15 are not the handle shafts of the handle portion recited in amended Claim 1.

Ziperstein describes a wheel including a hub 5.⁴ However, Ziperstein does not disclose or suggest a handle portion including handle shafts being attached to the hub 5 of the wheel. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Ziperstein does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of Cabrera.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Ziperstein and Cabrera does not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 1 as unpatentable over Cabrera in view of Ziperstein be withdrawn.

¹ See the original specification, for example, at page 10, lines 17-20 and in Figure 5.

² See Cabrera, at column 3, lines 44 and 45 and in Figure 1.

³ See Cabrera, at column 3, lines 45-47 and in Figures 1-3.

⁴ See Ziperstein, at page 1, lines 69-73 and in Figure 3.

New Claims 4-7 are added by the present amendment. Support for new Claims 4-7 can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 10, lines 17-20, at page 11, line 21 to page 12, line 1, in Figure 5, and in Claims 1-3. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

New Claim 4 recites, in part, monocycle, comprising “a handle portion slidably and fixably connected to the second end of the frame portion such that handle shafts of the handle portion are configured to be slid to a position below the axle to form a stand with a bottom of the wheel.”

Accordingly, in view of the above discussion with respect to Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 4 patentably defines over Cabrera in view of Ziperstein. Further, it is noted that Claims 5 and 6, while directed to alternative embodiments, recite features similar to those recited in allowable Claims 2 and 3. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 4, and all claims dependent thereon, define patentable subject matter.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Colin B. Harris
Registration No. 58,969

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/07)